

## Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /117 W

----- 115162

R 291315Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6678

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 1654

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MI

SUBJ: GOM NOTE ON VOA MONITORING

REF: BLANTYRE 1174

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED STIFF LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 19 SIGNED BY SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JOHN NGWIRI REGARDING USIS EMPLOYMENT OF MALAWI CITIZENS MESSRS. MKANDAWIRE AND KWIZOMBE TO MONITOR VOA BROADCASTS. MKANDAWIRE AND KWIZOMBE ARE BELIEVED UNDER DETENTION.

2. LETTER STATES MKANDAWIRE AND KWIZOMBE EMPLOYEES OF STATUTORY BODY MBC WERE "PRIVATELY, SECRETLY AND COVERTLY ENGAGED BY OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE WHO ENJOY DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES AND TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS IN SERVICES THAT ARE CONTRARY TO THE NORMS AND CONVENTIONS OF THE MALAWI PUBLIC SERVICE." GOM HAS IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE THEY RECEIVED REGULAR REMUNERATION FROM USIS AND "PRIVATELY, SECRETLY AND COVERTLY ENGAGED THEMSELVES IN MONITORING THE VOA BROADCASTING AND THEN REPEATED THEIR FINDINGS TO THE OFFICER OR OFFICERS WHO HAD BEEN PAYING THEM." SUCH ACTION ON PART OF SECTION OF US EMBASSY IS "ONE WHICH TO SAY THE LEAST SHOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED. SINCE IT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED, I SINCERELY HOPE THAT IT WILL

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NOT BE REPEATED AND THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY MAY PERHAPS ENSURE

THAT THE OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE COMPLY WITH THE NORMS AND CONDITIONS GOVERNING OUR SOCIETY AS WELL AS THE NORMS AND CONVENTIONS EXPECTED OF DIPLOMATS AND DIPLOMATIC CONSTITUTION (SIC) TO THOSE ACCORDED DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES."

3. EMBASSY HAS REPLIED ON FOLLOWING LINES: FIRST ASSURING GOM ALL MEMBERS OF MISSION UNDER STRICT INJUNCTION TO COMPORT THEMSELVES AT ALL TIMES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC NORMS AND CONVENTIONS AND TO COMPLY WITH NORMS AND CONDITIONS GOVERNING MALAWI SOCIETY AND EXPRESSING SINCERE REGRET SHOULD ANY DEVIATION OCCUR. SURPRISED THAT

CONCLUSIONS REFLECTED IN LETTER REACHED WITHOUT PRIOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MISSION. FACTS REGARDING EMPLOYMENT MESSRS. MKANDAWIRE AND KWIZOMBE NEXT SET FORTH EMPHASIZING NO SECRET, COVERT OR PRIVATE METHODS INVOLVED. NATURE OF MONITORING OPERATION IS EXPLAINED, I.E. IT COMPLETELY OVERT PROCEDURE CARRIED OUT WORLDWIDE IN COUNTRIES TO WHICH VOA PROGRAMS ARE BEAMED. EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE IS TO DETERMINE QUALITY OF RECEPTION ON VARIOUS WAVE LENGTHS. PRACTICE COMMONLY FOLLOWED BY BROADCASTING COMPANIES INCLUDING MBC. MONITORS NOT INVOLVED IN GATHERING OR TRANSMITTING NEWS. THEY NOT CONCERNED WITH ANY BROADCAST OTHER THAN VOA.

4. EMBASSY REPLY NOTES GOM LETTER INDICATES MESSRS. MKANDAWIRE AND KWIZOMBE MAY BE IN DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF ASSOCIATION WITH USIS AND EXPRESSES HOPE FACTS SET FORTH WILL REMOVE ANY BELIEF THEY ENGAGED IN PRIVATE, SECRET, COVERT OR OTHERWISE INIMICAL ACTIVITIES. REPLY DRAWS ATTENTION TO PROVISIONS OF VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS RELATED TO TREATMENT OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES (L/AF MEMO TO AF/E OF AUGUST 16, 1973). IT CONCLUDES BY EXPRESSING TRUST INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL LAY TO REST CONCERN OF GOM AND CONFIDENCE OPEN AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS WILL SUCCEED IN FUTURE AS IN PAST IN RESOLVING ANY QUESTIONS THAT ARISE.

5. COMMENT: USIS APPARENTLY WAS IN ERROR IN EMPLOYING MESSRS. MKANDAWIRE AND KWIZOMBE. MALAWI CIVIL SERVANTS INCLUDING CONFIDENTIAL

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EMPLOYEES OF STATUTORY BODIES SUCH AS MBC ARE PROHIBITED BY REGULATIONS FROM OBTAINING OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT. HOWEVER, GOM CHARGES APPARENTLY BASED ON BELIEF THEY ENGAGED IN SOME SORT OF "SECRET COVERT ACTIVITIES." OUR REPLY THUS EMPHASIZES ROUTINE OVERT NATURE OF METHOD OF EMPLOYMENT AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES. WE INCLUDED REFERENCE TO VIENNA CONVENTION IN EFFORT INDIRECTLY TO PROVIDE PROTECTION TO OTHER LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN FASHION WHICH WOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE ANY

INDIVIDUAL. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO PUT THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT  
TO REST BY FIRM REBUTTAL IN MANNER NOT OFFENSIVE TO GOM AND  
TO LAY BASIS FOR RESUMPTION MONITORING OPERATION.  
BURDETT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RADIO BROADCASTING, RADIO BROADCAST MONITORING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Reference:** BLANTYRE 1174  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOM NOTE ON VOA MONITORING  
**TAGS:** PINS, MI, VOA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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